The Washington Daily News, Thursday, November 16, 1967

Professor Claims Oswald Didn't Do It

Did Three Gunmen Shoot Kennedy?

NEW YORK, Nov. 16 (UPI) — A new independent study of the assassination of President Kennedy made public today, claims the slaying was a conspiracy and three gunmen were involved, all of whom may still be at large.

The major conclusions of a two-year investigation of the 1963 tragedy by Dr. Josiah Thompson of Haverford College, Pa., are contained in an article in the Saturday Evening Post which will reach the newsstands next Tuesday.

The Post, in an editorial, contends Dr. Thompson "demolishes the Warren Report" and demands the assassination case be reopened.

'PATENTLY WRONG'

Dr. Thompson, 32-year-old Yale Phi Beta Kappa scholar who teaches philosophy, charges that altho details remain unclear, "the essential outline of the assassination is now apparent — the 'one assassin' finding of the Warren Commission is patently wrong; there were four shots from three guns in six seconds."

Some of his conclusions are based on original research in the National Archives, documents and photos not seen by the Warren Commission, and interviews with eyewitnesses. Others are grounded in further analysis of material in the Warren Report.

The author, whose book "Six Seconds in Dallas" will be published Nov. 27, does not speculate on identities of the assassins or their motivation, but he does cast doubt on the guilt of Lee Harvey Oswald. He said Oswald was in the Texas School Book Depository building and his rifle was used, but it is "quite likely" he was not the assassin at the sixth floor window.

BETTER PRINT?

Dr. Thompson claims to have had access to a better print of Abraham Zapruder's color movie of the assassination than was made available to the FBI. An analysis of this print, owned by Life Magazine, by a new technique involving superimposition of sequential pictures and by a dissecting microscope provided him with data he says indicates:

- Four bullets were fired in Dallas' Dealey Plaza and all hit their mark (The Warren Commission reported three shots, two hits). The first, a cartridge whose explosive power was substandard, made a shallow wound in the President's back. The second wounded Gov. John Connally. The third hit Mr. Kennedy's head from behind. The fourth hit his head from the front and was fatal.
- The bullets were fired from three locations — the sixth floor of the Depository Building, the roof of a nearby building, possibly the Dallas County Records Building or the Dal-Tex Building, and the stockade fence behind the grassy knoll at the side of the Plaza.

The theory that a single bullet wounded both President Kennedy and Gov. Connally is erroneous. The superior quality Zapruder film shows the men were not struck at the same time but within a short enough time to eliminate the possibility that the bullets came from the same gun.

Another amateur motion picture of the assassination, made by Orville Nix and taken opposite from Mr. Zapruder's position, showed what appeared on enlargement to be a man with a rifle leaning on the roof of a station wagon behind the fence on the knoll and pointing toward the cavalcade.

A months-long independent study of the film by the Itek Corporation of Lexington, Mass., one of the nation's top photographic laboratories, determined, however, that the "man with the rifle" was simply a blending of shadows of tree branches. It also established that it would have been impossible for a gunman to have hit Mr. Kennedy from the station wagon shown in the picture.

The author quotes Gov. Connally as saying that to his "absolute knowledge" he was hit by a different bullet than hit the President and Mrs. Connally is quoted as saying "no one will ever convince me otherwise."

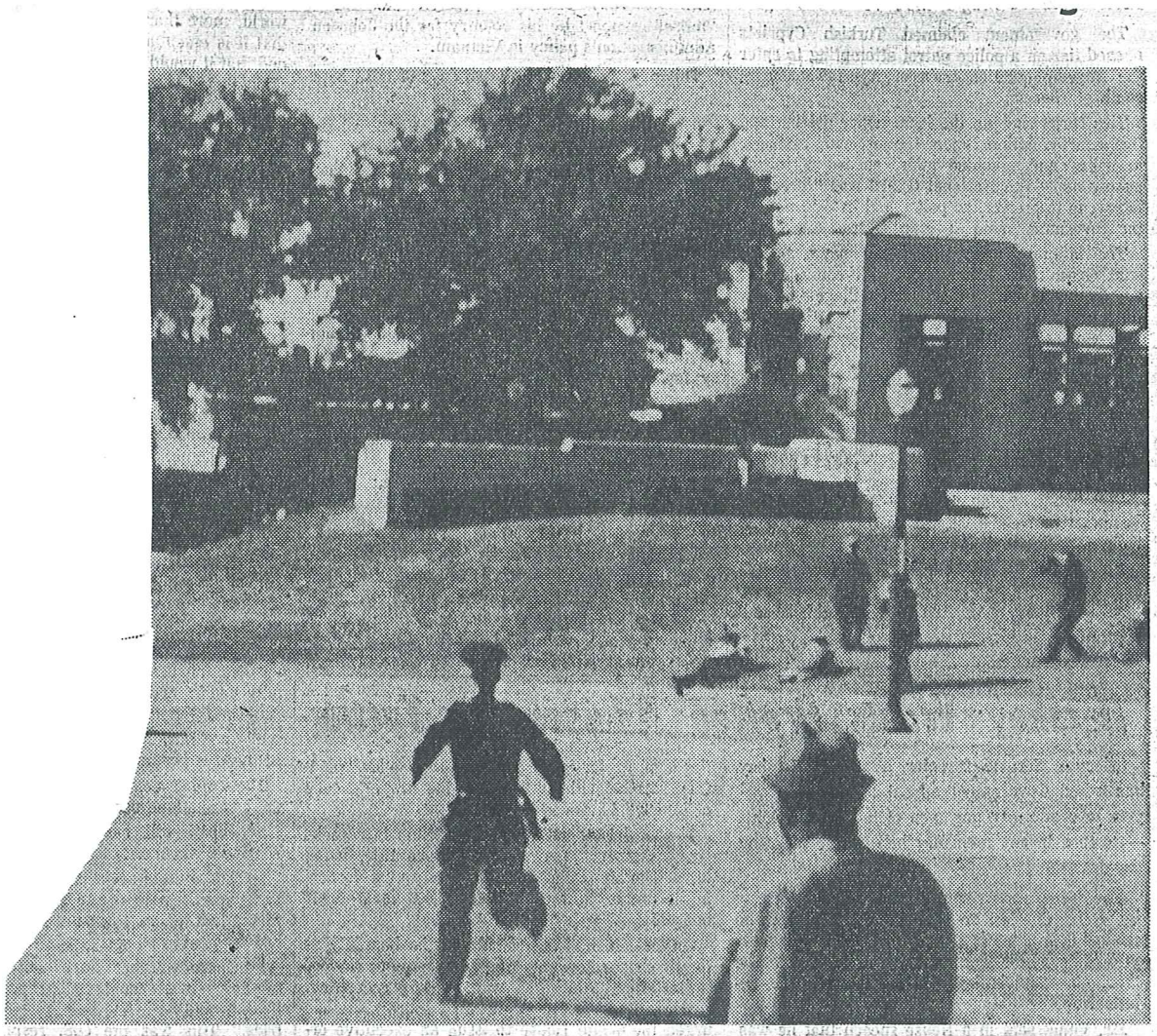
Dr. Thompson said the Warren Commission, "recognizing that to believe the Governor's account meant also to believe in the existence of a second assassin, put forth its 'delayed reaction' theory" to explain the time lapse between when the bullet supposedly hit Gov. Connally and his realization of being hit.

"With few exceptions, all the evidence discussed in this study was available to the Warren Commission," Prof. Thompson said. "But the Commission, in its haste, its uncritical evaluation of the facts, and its predisposition to prove Lee Harvey Oswald the lone assassin, overlooked much of it."

This photo, made shortly after the one on Page 1, shows Officer Hargis (white arrow) climbing the knoll with others scrambling after him. This picture, as well as the one on Page 1, has never been published before.

—UPI Photo

ANOTHER THEORY — Haverford College Prof. Josiah Thompson claims three gunmen — none of them Lee Harvey Oswald — were actually the assassins of President Kennedy and uses this photo to back up his



case. It shows Dallas policeman Bobby W. Hargis (arrow) who, after being hit by a shower of the President's blood, dismounted from his motorcycle and raced toward the grassy knoll in the background from where he thought a shot had come. Other policemen and spectators obviously also thought something untoward had happened on the knoll. See story and another hitherto unpublished photo on Page 9.

—UPI Photo